

# THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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## Is Mk. 16:17, 18 for Us Today?

Are Miracles as Casting Out Devils, Speaking in New Tongues, Taking Up Snakes Safely, Kept Safe After Drinking Poison, Recovery of the Sick by Laying on of Hands, Etc., Possible To Those Who Have Faith for Them?

BY JOHN R. RICE

A young convert asked the question, "Are the things promised in Mark 16:17, 18 for us today?" The question is of such interest, that I answer it here for the readers of *The Sword of the Lord*, from the Bible.

First of all, let me say frankly that I do not believe the Bible is out of date. It irks me for people to begin to pick out promises that God has given which they say do not apply to us. I know that there is some dispensational division in the Bible. For instance, circumcision, and certain other ceremonial laws commanded of Jews are not commanded for Christians today. We do not offer animal sacrifices, and we are not forbidden to eat pork or catfish. We are not required to keep the Jewish feast days. The ceremonial laws were nailed to the cross with Christ, and are fulfilled. Those laws were a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ (Col. 2:14-17).

However, where there is a change in dispensations, the Bible plainly marks it. New Testament scriptures expressly tell us that we are not now bound by those ceremonial laws. The Bible may be taken at face value by honest Christians. There are no dispensational changes except those plainly marked in the Bible.

For instance, some people have invented what they call "a transitional period" lasting from Pentecost to the death of the apostles, or until the last scripture was written. The Bible nowhere mentions any such "transitional period." Certainly there was not any new dispensation during that time, and no essential changes since that time. Some notes in the splendid Scofield Bible lend some encouragement to this false view. Others have gone so far as to say that now even baptism and the Lord's supper and the great commission are for Jews only, not for Gentile converts and not for this age.

In answer to all this, we say that Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." In certain matters, as the plan of sal-

vation, there has never been any change in any dispensation. God's mercy, His love for sinners, His willingness to hear prayer, His doing wonders in response to faith—in these matters, God has never changed His dealings toward man.

Now let us consider whether Mark 16:17, 18 is out of date, or whether it is still good for us today and whether we may rely upon it as God's word and promise to us. And in order to know whether it is for us today, let us look at the whole passage. So we read it carefully, with the connected passage.

"15. And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

"16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

"17. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

"18. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"—Mark 16:15-18.

The above is the Great Commission as given in the gospel of Mark, as you see. Jesus commanded the eleven disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (vs. 15). That command could not possibly be fulfilled by eleven men only. Eleven men, without a printed page, without a radio, with no railroads, no automobiles, could not themselves preach the gospel to every creature alive in the world, even in their lifetime. Nor did Christ intend them to do so. Clearly He meant for these disciples and others they should win, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Hear John R. Rice,  
Radio WRR,  
7:30 a. m., Sunday

## How God Shines Up Faces

BY JOHN R. RICE

July the 10th a dear young woman in Dallas wrote to me saying, "I am not a Christian. I have a troubled mind. I just can't have any peace, so please pray for me."

I prayed for the dear girl and Mrs. Rice went to see her. Then last Sunday night she was in the services with her mother and a friend. I preached on "Death-traps for Souls," and showed how Satan kept people entangled with sin so that they would not turn to Christ. Among ten who came forward and five who joined the church as candidates for baptism, were this girl and her mother. She came to trust Christ as her Saviour, and then a little later came back to join the church. Her mother, a Methodist for many years, had felt a deep conviction that she ought to be baptized, and so she came with the daughter for baptism and church membership.

In our home Mrs. Rice and I retired Sunday night, happily talking over the events of a blessed

Lord's Day, of this one who was saved, of another who came as a backslider, and of the big crowd who heard the Sunday night message. And Mrs. Rice said concerning this dear girl and her mother, "Their faces will soon brighten up!" They had been so sad, but through the years we have seen in thousands of cases what the grace of God does in poor, sad, tired hearts. How many people with troubled minds, with unease of conscience, and with the sorrows brought on by Satan, have found Christ, and then, little by little the whole face has begun to show the peace and the joy and happiness that belongs to a child of God who really knows the power of Christ. We have seen people taken off of relief rolls because they were saved and became responsible, reliable workmen, able to hold a good job. We have seen homes reunited, and drunkards made sober. We have seen sad-faced wives get again the glow of a bride's happiness because of sober husbands, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## Business Man Dedicates Factory To Christ

R. G. LeTourneau, Manufacturer of Heavy Road-Building Machinery, Opened New Factory at Toccoa, Georgia, With Evangelistic Services, Seats for 2,300.

Mr. R. G. LeTourneau is the founder and president of R. G. LeTourneau, Inc., of Peoria, Illinois, and Stockton, California. He is one business man that has found that Christianity really works. God has so marvelously blessed his business that he has one factory at Peoria, Illinois, 160 feet wide by 1,200 feet long. Further expansion is needed. A new factory has been built at Toccoa, Georgia. In the little Christian magazine, *NOW*, that comes to us, published by LeTourneau, we see an announcement of the plant dedication program as follows:

### "United Crusade for Christ

"At LeTourneau Plant—July 11-14  
Toccoa, Georgia  
Seats for 2,500, But Come Early  
Everybody Welcome

### "Plant Dedication Service

Tuesday, July 11 — 2:30 p.m.  
Brief Welcome by:  
Hon. Rich. B. Russell, U. S. Senator  
Hon. B. Frank Whelchel, U. S. Representative  
Hon. E. D. Rivers, Governor of Georgia  
and  
Local county officials and Southern Railroad Officials.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## Still Want 10,000 Names

We still want ten thousand names and addresses of people to whom we would send sample copies of *The Sword of the Lord*. We particularly want the names of Christians, people who would be interested in the fundamentally sound Bible teaching and preaching of *The Sword of the Lord*. But we want the names of backsliders, too. Please send us the names of all the Sunday School teachers in your church, or all the deacons, or members of adult classes. We will simply send them sample copies of *The Sword of the Lord* and give them a chance to subscribe for themselves. If you want to give out sample copies of the paper in your church or Sunday School or prayer meeting, please write us and tell us how many copies you want. Please enclose one cent a copy for printing expense and we will send them to you at once.

It won't cost you anything to send in names. And what a blessing if we can get ten thousand names of earnest Christian people who would like to read *The Sword of the Lord*! Many of them would subscribe for themselves. And think how much good would be done, even by the sample copies of the paper. Perhaps some soul would be saved in the home, and many Christians would be strengthened. So do your part. Make out a list today. Be sure to give exact names and initials, and accurate addresses so the papers will not be wasted. And when you do it, pray for God to bless the papers as we send them, and that many will subscribe.

## Five Big Reasons for TITHING

BY JOHN R. RICE

If you do not tithe, I know what is wrong with you. Not being a tither shows a man up if he is a Christian. If you do not tithe, I believe I can show you five unanswerable reasons why you ought to tithe.

By tithing I mean giving God one-tenth of your income. Not one-tenth of your profit, not one-tenth of what you have left after you pay your debts, but one-tenth of your salary, or one-tenth of what your farm produces, or one-tenth of the net income from your business. Tithing means to turn over a dime out of every dollar to the Lord. And of course it involves giving God the first dime. If you do not give God the first dime, you may not give Him a dime at all. The Bible teaches that everything you have and everything you get is the Lord's and that He requires you to give at least a tenth of it to Him and free will offerings besides, as the Holy Spirit leads, for His work. But here are the five reasons for it. Check them by your Bible, face the question honestly and see whether you are an obedient Christian, an honest Christian, a loving Christian, a grateful Christian, and a believing Christian.

### I. Obedience

God commanded, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse" (Mal. 3:10). That is a plain command. You are commanded to bring God all the tithes. Then in the New Testament, to those who paid tithes of everything, even of the mint and of the anise and the cummin, small herbs or spices of their garden, Jesus said, "These ought ye to have done" (Matt. 23:23). Then again Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit to the church at Corinth, commanded proportionate giving. He said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (I Cor. 16:2). God here commands New Testament Christians to give each week a certain proportion of what God has prospered them with during the week. It is a plain command. What proportion did He mean? Did He mean one-half? Or one-twentieth? Or one-fifth? Remember that all these Christians had only the Old Testament. Paul preached from the Old Testament because the New was not yet written and collected, and of course, the proportion commanded was the same kind God commanded throughout the Old Testament, and repeatedly mentions also in the New, that is the tithe, or one-tenth.

So there it is, Christian, it is the plain command of God to tithe. If you do not tithe, you are a disobedient Christian. You do not follow the plain commands of God. There is no use to say that you are trying to serve God or that you are surrendered to His will, or that you will do whatever He says, until you fully surrender to do what He says on the money question.

Somebody says that the tithe is now out of date because it was in the Old Testament. Some even say (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## Did Christ Build The Baptist Church?

Answer To a Letter Recently Received

BY JOHN R. RICE

Dear Brother S—:

I thank you for your letters. In one of them recently you asked me to write a tract on the church question and you suggest a title: "The Church Jesus Built Vs. The Universal, Invisible Church." I appreciate the kind things you say about my writings and I realize that there is a good deal of difference of opinion on this subject.

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." What did Jesus mean by His church?

First of all, He certainly did not mean a denomination, either the Baptist denomination or any other. We ordinarily say, "the Catholic church" and "the Methodist church," and many people even say, "the Baptist church," referring to the whole group of Baptists. However, though many Baptists have used the term in that way, it is not a scriptural use of the term. The word "church" never meant a denomination. Jesus never built a denomination, did not start one.

Catholic people say that their denomination with its human organization is the church of Christ and His bride. Most Catholics believe naturally enough that others are not saved. The so-called "church of Christ" in the south claims the same thing, that they are the true body and bride of Christ and that others are not saved. Sometimes Baptists very foolishly follow after that pattern and say that only Baptists are the true bride of Christ and His church. But they are certainly mistaken, as the Bible plainly shows.

The word "church" in the Bible simply means "a called out assembly." The Greek word "ekklesia," properly translated "church" in the New Testament, once refers to the nation Israel assembled at Mount Sinai (Acts 7:38). It is twice translated "assembly" (Acts 19:39-41), referring to an unsaved mob. Notice that is the only time the word "ekklesia" is ever translated anything but church. It is used once clearly of all the redeemed who will be assembled in Heaven (Heb. 12:23). Many other places the word "church" refers to this whole group, including all the saved. The more frequent use refers to a local congregation or a local church like "the church at Rome," the churches of Galatia, "the seven churches of Asia," or "the church of God at Corinth." The word "church" in the Bible never refers to a group of churches, a denomination. It could not possibly refer to all the Baptists, leaving out Methodists or others; nor to Catholics, leaving out Protestants. It is proper to (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

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## Five Big Reasons For TITHING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

it was a part of the ceremonial law, though it began long before the law was given. Abraham tithed (Gen. 14:20). Jacob tithed (Gen. 28:22). Both of these grew rich under the blessing of God by tithing. And this was long before the law was given at Mount Sinai.

But even if it was part of the Mosaic law, it is not ceremonial, it is moral law to tithe. When God had ceremonies put away, He mentions them particularly. He said, "There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins" (Heb. 10:26). So the ceremony of animal sacrifices is done away. Then again the ceremonial law about diet, forbidding to eat pork and catfish, etc., is plainly done away, and God said, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:15). And again the Scripture says, "Every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" (I Tim. 4:4, 5). And so the New Testament plainly said that we were to do away with circumcision (Gal. 5:6; Gal. 6:15). When God did away with ceremonies of the Mosaic law, He said so. But where is the scripture that says anything about doing away with tithes? You will not find it in the Bible! God says, "Bring ye all the tithes," He said, "The tithe . . . is the Lord's" (Lev. 27:30). Tithing is the test of an obedient Christian. You are not obeying God if you do not give at least as much as a tithe.

### II. Honesty

The second reason for tithing is that honesty requires it. Those who do not tithe are dishonest and rob God. That is the plain teaching of the Word of God. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (Mal. 3:8, 9).

There it is — if you do not tithe and do not bring offerings also, then you have robbed God, and you are dishonest. Honesty requires that one tithe and give offerings.

Again I remind you that honesty is not a part of the ceremonial law, but of the moral law. Which one of the Ten Commandments will cover the question of tithing? The eighth one, which says, "Thou shalt not steal" (Exo. 20:15). Stealing or robbing is just as big a sin in the New Testament as in the Old Testament, and God says that those who do not bring tithes and offerings to God are robbers. Do not get mad at me, but get mad at God if you do not like that. Do not dislike *The Sword of the Lord*, if you disagree with that statement, just dislike the Bible, God's Word.

Will a man rob God? Well, God says that men do, that they rob Him in tithes and offerings and that therefore are cursed with a curse!

So if you are just bound to be a thief or crooked in money matters, don't you think you had better steal from somebody else instead of God? Would it not be better for you to cheat somebody else instead of the God who made you? Remember that He gives you everything you ever have in this world. How wicked to rob God!

Some men think that they owe no God anything. They never consider it any harm to steal from God. That is human and carnal, but Christians ought to have the Bible viewpoint. And the Bible plainly says that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). God says that the cattle on a thousand hills are His (Psalm 50:10). And because all belongs to God, He demands the tithe, and it is rightfully His. He also demands offerings as the Holy Spirit leads. They are rightfully His, according to the teaching of the Bible.

You who do not tithe, and do not bring offerings to God, when you get down to pray, just remember that God says you are crooked, that you have robbed Him, and see how you feel then about praying!

### III. Love

Real love will lead a Christian to give both tithes and offerings. Nothing in the world will loosen the purse strings and make an old

stingy tight-wad into a rejoicing, free-hearted, liberal man, like a good old-fashioned case of the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Spirit! You remember that Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15), and again He said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words" (John 14:23). There it is as clear as day! If you love God as you ought to, you will do right about tithes and offerings and keep His commandments.

All the threats in the world will not make a child obey his parents as well as real filial love. All the vows of the marriage altar will not make a man take care of his wife as a real case of unselfish love. And so you can just put it down that something is badly wrong with a man's heart if he is not willing to do what God said about tithes and offerings.

Note that love makes it easy to give. I remember how once Mrs. Rice and I were very carefully tithing, even to the pennies, our small income when we first married and went to the Seminary to prepare to preach the gospel. But one day I saw how little and stingy that was, and I said, "This doesn't represent the way I love the Lord. One dime out of every dollar will not begin to show how I love Him for all He has done for me." So from that very day we began to give far more than a tithe, and what a joy it has been!

And that is one reason why I know that New Testament Christians ought to give as much as Old Testament Christians did. If you love God as Abraham did, of course you will want to give tithes of all and more just as Abraham did. If you meet God in some lonely place and He comforts your heart and blesses you and supplies all your needs, surely you, like Jacob, will love God enough to give as much as Jacob gave.

Do you really believe that an Old Testament Jew under the law ought to love God any more than a New Testament Christian under grace? Do you really believe that all the quibbles you can raise will excuse your stingy heart when you simply do not love God enough to do as much as Jews were required to do under the law? No, I am certain that real love will bring to God just as much now as when righteous Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock, or when spiritual Jews brought tithes and offerings to the Lord.

When love waxed cold, then the Jews robbed God. So today when a child of God grows stingy and covetous and worldly-minded, he robs God for lack of love.

If you love God, surely you will keep His command about tithes and offerings.

### IV. Gratitude

The fourth reason for tithing is gratitude. If you are grateful for all the goodness of God, then surely you will show it by answering goodness. How liberal God has been! Every day He pours upon you blessings too many to name.

"Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God has done.  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

And here again it is easy to tell whether we ought to give as much as the Jews did under law. Would you rather be a Jew dwelling in the darkness of Old Testament times, looking into the dim future trusting that God would some day send a Saviour, and blindly offering sacrifices? Or would you rather be a New Testament Christian with an open Bible, a printed Bible including both the Old and New Testaments, and knowing that Christ has already come and has already paid for man's sins? Who ought to love God better — New Testament Christians or Old Testament Jews? You need not talk to me about the gratitude of your heart for all God's blessings if you do not feel grateful enough to give Him everything that He asks.

### V. Faith

If you do not tithe, it is because you do not believe the plain statements of God's Word. Again and again He has promised that He will repay, that He will prosper you financially, that you will be

better off even in material things because of tithes and offerings. If you believed it, you would tithe. When you do not bring the tithes and offerings for the Lord's work, it simply shows that you do not believe He will do what He said.

People say to me, "Brother Rice, I would like to tithe, but I can't afford to. If I tithed, I simply could not pay for the necessities of life. I could not meet my bills." Little do you realize it, but you are simply saying that it does not pay to serve God, that you cannot depend upon His promises, and that really He would not pay you back. You do not believe the Bible!

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."—Mal. 3:10, 11.

There it is: God says if you would bring in the tithes, He would open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing. And He promises that there will be material blessings also, with larger crops and better incomes. If you believed that, you would tithe.

Again God says:

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase:  
"So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."  
—Prov. 3:9, 10.

God promises that if He gets the firstfruits of all your increase, that you will have plenty of increase with filled barns and your wine-presses bursting out with grape-juice. It is a promise of material blessings because of tithing.

But Jesus says the same thing in the New Testament. Matt. 6:33:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Again in Luke 6:38, we read:

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

God promises that with the same measure you give to Him it will be measured back to you, even material blessing. And Second Corinthians 9:6 says:

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

That sowing and reaping is in material blessings. You have little money because you give little money. You are stingy with God, and God measures back to you food and clothes in the same stingy, scanty measure that you give to Him. You sow sparingly, you reap sparingly. Oh, believe me, you cannot afford not to tithe!

So there are many clear and definite promises in God's Word that you will be better off financially by tithing than not to tithe. He has promised to provide food and drink and clothes if you seek first His kingdom. You cannot get ahead of God in giving. God says it, and the experiences of millions of Christians prove it so. But you do not believe it, and therefore you do not bring God the tithes and offerings!

Not to tithe proves your lack of faith, and your unbelief in God and the Bible. If you think you cannot afford to tithe, then you are a modernist who does not believe the Bible!

So check up on yourself and see what kind of a Christian you are. Are you an obedient Christian, willing to do what God commands? Are you an honest Christian, paying all your obligations? Do you really love God? Are you sincerely grateful for His blessings? And do you believe His Word? In other words, are you willing to risk God to do what He said He would do? Not until you try God out in tithes and offerings can you really answer "Yes" to these questions. Now let me hear whether you are going to tithe.

## Did Christ Build The Baptist Church?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

use the word "church" only about a local congregation or about all the saved who will be assembled together in Heaven.

Whether you call the bride of Christ an "invisible church" does not matter. It is not invisible but it is not yet called together all in one place.

Jesus said, "... upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18), in the words of the King James translation. More literally it should be translated, "I will be building my church." In other words, Jesus did not build the church in one instant. He was not referring to organizing the church nor originating the church. Rather, He had in mind a steady building through the centuries until the bride of Christ should be completely finished. Ephesians 2:19-22 tells how Christ is building His church. There we learn that the building "groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord." That is, every time a soul is saved, he is built into the wall of this house of God, becoming a part of this house or temple or body or bride or church, as it is called in the Scriptures.

First Peter 2:5 tells us also that we are living stones, built up in a spiritual house, and First Corinthians 12:13 tells how the Holy Spirit baptizes every convert into the body of Christ and he becomes a part of that body. Just as a stone is laid in the wall and covered up and so is buried or baptized into the wall and becomes a part of that wall, so every Christian is built into the temple or house or body or church of Christ. He is building His church by getting people saved, and everyone saved is made a part of that church or body of Christ. Neither the vote of a local congregation nor baptism nor any initiatory rite performed by men puts one into the church of Christ. That is done by the Holy Spirit when one trusts in Christ as Saviour.

Do not misunderstand me. I believe in local congregations, that is, local churches, and the Bible clearly teaches that people ought to assemble themselves as local churches of believers, but when God refers to a local congregation in the Bible, He does not mean the same thing as Jesus meant when He said, "I will build my church," the church mentioned in Hebrews 12:22.

It is important to note, I think, that the body of Christ and His church are the same as you see from Ephesians 1:22, 23, and Colossians 1:18.

Denominational pride oftentimes leads people into false doctrine, and it has led many good Baptists into false doctrine in this matter just as it led Catholics and many "Church of Christ" people.

All the born-again ones are members of the body and bride of Christ, His church, and we must not try to seize for our own particular denomination that which refers to all the saints of God.

I have written you in detail and I hope you will search the matter

## Another Soul Saved Through Booklet, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

Within the last year we have had word from about a hundred people who have claimed the Lord through my booklets, most of them as a result of reading "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" We praise the Lord for this! The last one received was dated July 3, 1939, and was from a woman in Wichita, Kansas. She signed the decision slip which reads as follows:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Realizing that I am a sinner and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour and gladly mail this to let you know."

Then she signed her name and address, and added:

"I am sending my confession to you, and my tithe for this month. It isn't much. I want you to pray for me to lead others to Christ. God bless this world and everybody in it."

"Yours in Christ,

"Mrs. G. H."

I have written her a personal letter, encouraging her to follow Christ in baptism and church membership and all things "whatsoever He has commanded us." "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me," that He uses this little booklet to the salvation of souls. It contains many, many scriptures, and it really makes the plan of salvation plain to sinners from the Word of God, and we believe that is why God is so greatly using it.

I will gladly send free any number of this booklet for careful and prayerful distribution. We want to get the gospel out. Help with printing and postage if you like.

We want to send 10,000 copies of this booklet to some Christian workers at the New York World's Fair. Pray about it and send an offering to help if God lays it on your heart. I have no doubt many will be saved if we can get these out. We have just mailed 800 to our worker, Brother Hellis Gas, in New York, and will mail thousands more if we can get money to print them.

The printing cost, since the booklet is already set up, is small; \$75.00 would print 10,000 copies and mail them to our careful, earnest distributor and personal worker who labors daily in the New York World's Fair.

carefully by the Bible and then write me again.

Many have asked me to write a tract on this subject and I have considered doing so.

Hoping to hear from you again soon, I am

Your brother in Christ,  
JRR/vw JOHN R. RICE

## SPOOK CROOKS!

MEDIUMS, FORTUNE-TELLERS, ASTROLOGERS

By Martin S. Charles and Ralph E. Underwood

If you are interested in spiritism or spiritualists, you will find this book fascinating. First of all it gives what the Bible says about spiritualism, fortune-tellers, and astrologers, and the Bible is very clear. Then it gives a detailed exposure of the tricks and deceits of spiritualists. Spiritualists are really "crooks" and this splendid book shows them up. It is profusely illustrated. The authors were once magicians on the vaudeville stage. Here, at the expense of many hundreds of dollars and special equipment, they carried on the mind-reading, fortune-telling, etc., that spiritualistic mediums and fortune-tellers claim to do by connection with the dead. The book is well written, has many, many illustrations, and is certain to please and do good. The editor commends it highly.

Both the authors were once outstanding atheists but were wonderfully converted and called of God. Give this book to anybody who is about to be deceived by the table-tapping, or spirit messages, or visions, or fortune-telling of the spiritualist or astrologer. Price, only.....

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## Business Man Dedicates Factory To Christ

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"Response by R. G. LeTourneau  
"Gospel Speakers:  
R. A. Forrest, Toccoa, Georgia  
R. R. Brown, Omaha, Nebraska  
S. M. Gerow, Akron, Ohio  
And Other Evangelists

"Also—  
Shop Men's Chorus, Directed by  
R. R. Brown  
And Male Quartet  
"Supper—Old Fashioned Southern  
Barbecue

"Gospel Meetings Each Evening  
at 7:30 p.m., July 11-14."

Three years ago our Brother LeTourneau dedicated an addition to the Peoria, Illinois, plant. That factory addition was dedicated by the founder and owner in these words:

### "Why Dedicate a Factory?"

"Some people may wonder what religion has to do with business. But some years ago I began to ask myself the question, 'What's the use of having a religion that does not work?' And I began to give it some thought. The Spirit of the Lord got ahold of me and I began to think these things over, and I said to myself, 'I profess to love the Lord Jesus Christ, but my actions don't prove it. I profess to have a Saviour who is able to help me, but here I've been worrying along in my own strength.'

"I had had a partner who, although a good man and a smart man, had let Satan trip him up, and the business went smash, and there I was with debts to pay, and nothing but my two hands to pay them with. I said, 'If God is what I claim He is and I profess to believe, why not go into partnership with Him?' And I got down on my knees at an old-fashioned altar of prayer, and there I made a little deal with God.

"I feel that I could have kept my part of the deal lots better than I have, but this business and its unparalleled growth shows that God has kept His part of the deal. And when I say unparalleled growth, I mean just that. Four years ago the creditors were trying to decide whether to give us a chance to try to pay out or to take their loss on the LeTourneau account, clean up and forget it. We dedicated the second addition to our Eastern factory, again doubling our production capacity, in an effort to keep up with orders. This addition, 160 feet wide by 600 feet long, gives our Peoria plant a total length of 1,200 feet.

"You see, we have a personal God, a personal Saviour. Isn't it marvelous that He is willing to condescend to make a personal deal with you and me, the creatures of His hands?"

"If I did not seek to give God the glory and tell the world that this business really belongs to Him, seeking to honor Him in the dedication of this splendid new building, I would not be fulfilling my part of the deal.

"On the other hand, I would not seek to lower His grace to the level of a bargain. The Lord Jesus Christ in the shedding of His precious blood to wash away our sins has done that which we can never repay. The Lord of Glory left the ivory palaces and came down in this world of woe—Who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich—when we look at it from that angle, we must admit that no mortal will ever be able to repay Him. But because I believe that God wants business men, as well as preachers, to be His servants, I believe that a factory can be dedicated to His service as well as a church and that it can be used as a means of saving many souls.

"I believe the world is looking for religion that really works, and, while I realize that success is not always measured in dollars and cents, any more than true joy and happiness can be measured in dollars and cents, I am certain that if those who profess the name of Christ would really put their confidence in Him they would find that God is still on the throne."

### Some Editorial Comments

The editor of *The Sword of the Lord* wants to call the attention of Christian business men to the fact that it pays to serve God. It pays

## How God Shines Up Faces

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

when Christ came in. Mrs. Rice spoke from happy experience when she said, "Their faces will soon brighten up."

And, behold, Monday the mother called Mrs. Rice to tell her how happy they were in Christ and how rosy the future looked, because they trusted in Him!

Dear Sinner who reads this, do you, too, have a troubled mind? Does life seem hard to you? Are you a failure? Is there no answer to your many problems? Is your load too heavy for you to bear alone? Then the thing for you to do is to come to Jesus Christ and let Him take your burden. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28).

I have found it so, and so have millions of others who came to Christ. For sorrow, we received joy. For burdens, we received songs. For sins, we received forgiveness. Instead of apprehension and fear for the future, we received the assurance of sins all forgiven and the past all gone under the blood of Christ!

Oh, it is wonderful to know that Christ is my Saviour! If you do not have Him as yours, then confess your need today, trust Him with all your heart. He loves you. He died for you. He will save you right now if you will take Him.

If you have a troubled heart, and if you will trust Christ to forgive you and save you, won't you tell me so today? Fill out this statement here, or write me a postcard or letter and tell me so.

Evangelist John R. Rice  
207 South Beckley  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Brother Rice:

I, too, have a burdened heart. I have not been a Christian. But today I am coming to Jesus and trusting Him as my Saviour. I give Him my heart, I repent of my sin, and I will look to Jesus to forgive me and to be my own personal Saviour. I mean this from my heart and I am glad to confess Him to you and others.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

## BUILDING PLANS

Hearty and enthusiastic meetings of the Building Committee recently have pressed forward in our building project. Many details have been settled, contract has been completed and signed with the architect and he has the plans about ready for bids by contractors, both general bids and detail bids. It is hoped that by August 1st actual construction can begin on the large two-story Sunday School building, 90 x 72 feet, which will be our first unit. It will include an auditorium seating near 800 and adequate Sunday School equipment for 600. Later, a larger auditorium will be built, God willing, leaving Sunday School equipment for a thousand or twelve hundred.

Last Sunday more than \$400.00 was promised to be handed in in cash by August 1st and already much of it is in. We earnestly suggest that every member and all of our friends pray to know the Lord's will and for grace to do whatever will please Him in providing the money for this building.

Our previous big tabernacle, 90 x 146 feet, part of it a two-story Sunday School section, was destroyed by fire last November 2nd. But God is with us.

in dollars and cents, but infinitely more it pays in spiritual blessings. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

The little four-page paper, *NOW*, published by R. G. LeTourneau, can be had weekly without charge, by writing to editor R. G. LeTourneau, Peoria, Illinois. It will be a blessing to business men who long to serve God better.

## "PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"

That is the Sunday night sermon subject of Pastor John R. Rice in the open air evangelistic service at 201 East Tenth Street, Dallas. Services begin at 7:45, with orchestra before that.

God has been good to America. Again and again He has warned us. We have had depression, recession, unemployment, drouth, labor troubles, and now threatened war. Yet we have turned to nakedness, to adultery, increased divorce and crime, homes without God, without prayer, without a Bible. We have made liquor run like water. Boys drink, girls hop cars for beer joints. Our women with bobbed hair smoke cigarettes, go half-naked, rear their children without discipline, without reverence, without prayer. Schools teach that the Bible is a lie, that we are nothing but brutes descended from apes. So now America, with all her chance for good, all her churches, all her riches, all her learning, must get ready to meet God!

And sinner, God has been good to you. But you have scorned His mercy and would not hear His reproof—so, sinner, prepare to meet thy God!

This will be a hot, plain, evangelistic sermon. About ten came forward last Sunday night. Come praying. Bring neighbors and friends.

### Baptizing Sunday Morning

Several converts to baptize. Plain sermon on one of the sweetest chapters in the Bible. Sunday School at 9:30. We are coming up, Sunday by Sunday. Let each one be in his place. Visitors welcome. Pray for a blessing. Thank God for the wonderful spirit and blessing in services recently. Don't miss it. One hundred and fifty in prayer meeting Wednesday night.

## Soul Saved Through Radio Broadcast

Thursday of last week we received a letter from Mr. F. W. Sheriff, Executive Secretary of the Christian Business Men's Committee of Chicago. Here is one paragraph of his letter which you will delight to hear:

"Enclosed herewith, you will find a copy of a letter received from John DeSaegher of Gary, Indiana, which is self-explanatory. We know you will be delighted to have this report and know that God used you and your message to the salvation of this young man from Dallas."

Mr. DeSaegher's letter addressed to the Chicago Christian Business Men's Committee is as follows:

"Gentlemen:

"Enclosed is \$1.00 to help just a little in keeping your wonderful ministry on the air. I am a salesman, and often hear your broadcast from the radio of my car. Sometime ago when Dr. Rice was on the Noonday Broadcast, I had the joy of leading a twenty-year-old hitch-hiker to the Lord at the close of the broadcast.

"This boy was from Dr. Rice's home town in Texas and got down on his knees in the car and took Christ as His Saviour.

"The far reaching effects of the noonday ministry will not be known until we reach the Glory Land.

"May your good work continue until Jesus comes.

"Yours in Him,  
"John DeSaegher"

May God have all the glory for this young man's salvation. "The Lord works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform." This godly salesman had evidently picked up a young man on the highway, and while I preached over this Chicago station the two of them heard the broadcast, and at the close had a prayer and the salesman led the young man to trust in Christ! Praise the Lord!

That was in February when I preached for three weeks at the Noonday service and over the radio. I am to be back there again in the fall, and trust the Lord will again bless with many souls saved through the radio and in the noonday meetings.

## Anniversary Service Sunday, July 30th

On Sunday night, July 31st, 1932, on a vacant lot in an open air revival, the Oak Cliff Fundamental Baptist Church was organized with the editor of this paper as pastor. God has given us many blessings in these seven years. We will celebrate with services throughout the day on Sunday, July 30th.

Besides the regular radio service at 7:30 a.m., the Sunday School at 9:30, and preaching service at 10:45 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. There will be a sandwich lunch for everybody, with iced lemonade and other good things and then a special time of praises and two fine speakers in the afternoon. One of these is Rev. C. B. Ray, pastor of the Fundamental Baptist Church in Sherman, which is enjoying a fine and solid growth under his ministry. Brother Ray is college and seminary trained, a good preacher, soul winner, and it is our great joy to have him. Let no one miss his messages. Another well known preacher from Dallas will speak, God willing.

We invite all our friends who can do so, from far and near, to

come and spend the entire day with us in Dallas. The morning and afternoon services will be at Sunset and Tyler in our rented church building. The evening evangelistic service will be held in the open air at 201 East Tenth Street. Those who cannot come for the entire day but must attend services in their own churches, are cordially invited to come with us for the noon meal and the afternoon services.

This seven year old baby has received many blessings. We want the fellowship of our friends. We want them to join us in thanksgiving for the past and in earnest prayer and faith for the future.

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## 'The Coming Kingdom of Christ'

BY JOHN R. RICE, D.D.

Pastor, Evangelist, Bible Teacher and Editor of "The Sword of the Lord"

A remarkable, fresh, powerful Bible study on the return of Christ, the coming restoration and conversion of Israel, the re-establishment of David's throne at Jerusalem, Christ's reign thereon for a thousand years. Fully one-third of the book is scripture, carefully, reverently and literally interpreted.

Fourteen Vigorous Chapters as Follows:

1. Blessings in the Study of Prophecy.
2. The Covenant with Abraham; Israel to Possess Canaan Forever.
3. Israel to be Restored as a Nation.
4. Regathering and Conversion of Israel When? At Christ's Coming.
5. David's Kingdom Over Israel to Be Restored Forever.
6. Jesus to Be King of the Jews on David's Throne.
7. The Kingdom Postponed Until the King Returns.
8. The Kingdom of Christ on Earth Is Yet Future.
9. Eternal Promises to the City Jerusalem.
10. World-Wide Righteousness, Peace and Prosperity Promised in Christ's Kingdom.
11. The Saved and Glorified to Reign With Christ on Earth After His Coming.
12. Others Unserved on Earth, in Natural Bodies, During Millennium.
13. What Must Come Before the Kingdom—Looking for Jesus.
14. Signs of the Coming of Christ.

G. S., in *Moody Monthly* for July '37, says: "It is exhilarating to faith to read a volume of this kind. The author has been a close student of the Word and therefore knows whereof he speaks. Israel, God's people, now scattered world-wide, will be restored to the land given to them for a perpetual possession, and David's throne will again be established in Jerusalem . . . We do not recall any that are more convincing than the present volume. Since the author is the busy pastor of a large church, we could not understand how he found time to write such a volume . . . We commend this book as a whole."

REV. WILLIAM MCCARRELL, Pastor Cicero Bible Church, Cicero, Illinois, says: "I have read the book entitled, 'The Coming Kingdom of Christ,' by John R. Rice. It teems with thought-provoking and spiritually-edifying scripture. It offers saved ones a full, thorough and constructive study course concerning the second coming of Christ. It should mean much to the advancement of Christ's cause."

OTHER COMMENTS: "The best presentation of the subject that I have read"—Rev. Sam Morris. "A greater quantity of understandable scriptures than I have found in any such volume of recent years . . . Should have its proper place with the other great books on this blessed subject"—Rev. Earl Anderson. "Contains a wealth of material for saint and sinner alike. Concise in its teaching, yet it is the clearest and ablest exposition of 'the blessed hope' that I have ever read . . . No Christian should be without this great exposition. I value my copy among the most select of my reference books."—Rev. T. Myron Webb.



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## Is Mark 16:17, 18 For Us Today?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

to take the gospel to every creature.

Compare that with Matthew 28:19, 20, and you will see where Jesus said:

"19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

—Matthew 28:19, 20.

The Great Commission, then, is

obviously intended for every Christian down to the end of the age. The apostles were to get people saved, to baptize them, and then to these new converts the same Great Commission was to be given, and they were to be taught to obey everything that Christ commanded the apostles. Certainly it is true, then, that the fifteenth verse of this chapter in Mark is for us today. It is a part of the Great Commission, to every saved soul till the end of the age.

But Mark 16:16 tells the plan of salvation. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Notice the Bible does not say that baptism saves. Faith in Christ saves. After one trusts in Christ he is saved. Then when he is baptized, he is still saved. In fact, the baptism proclaims and publicly announces his salvation. The rest of the verse shows that faith is the deciding factor. "But he that believeth not shall be damned." One who believes is saved, and one who does not believe is lost. No one ever was saved except by faith in Christ, and all who trust Him are saved. This plan of salvation, then, is still good today and for all the world.

And so are verses seventeen and eighteen. These words are in the same passage spoken by the Saviour in one command to the apostles. It is a part, in fact, of the Great Commission. As surely as Mark 16:15 is for us, then Mark 16:17, 18, are for us.

### What Does Mark 16:17, 18 Really Mean?

But does this passage mean that every Christian is to work miracles, cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents at pleasure, drink poison publicly and have it not hurt them, lay hands on the sick and have them recover? Is that what it means? Read the passage again very carefully.

"17. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

"18. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." — Mark 16:17, 18.

No, the Scripture does not say, and does not mean that every Christian was to have these miracles, nor that any Christian was to have them all the time.

We know that what Jesus said was true. And we know that the apostles believed it and that they had the signs following them, for the same passage of scripture tells us so. Verse twenty, just below, says:

"20. And they went forth,

and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

—Mark 16:20.

Here the New Testament Christians had the signs following that were promised.

Now if we can check up on New Testament Christians and find what really happened in their case, we will know what is promised for us, too.

First of all, it is certain from First Corinthians 12:29, 30, that not all New Testament Christians worked miracles, not all had gifts of healing, not all spoke with tongues. Those verses say:

"29. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?"

"30. Have all gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?"

—I Corinthians 12:29, 30.

These things promised in Mark 16:17, 18 are miracles, and yet not all New Testament Christians had the power to work miracles, or even were expected to have. Not all of them could lay hands on the sick and have them recover, because many did not have the gift of healing. Not all of them could speak in different languages, because they did not have the gift of tongues.

The record in the book of Acts bears out this fact. How many people in the entire New Testament had power to lay hands on the sick and have them recover? Certainly Jesus did. When the twelve were sent out on a special miracle-working journey through Israel, they "anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them" (Mark 6:13). But after the death of Christ how many healed the sick by laying on of hands? Peter did (Acts 3:6, 7; Acts 5:15, 16; Acts 9:32-34). Peter even raised the dead (Acts 9:36-41). Stephen worked miracles (Acts 6:8). We do not know whether it included special healing miracles. God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul, including healing the sick and casting out devils (Acts 19:11, 12). Paul also was bitten by a deadly serpent and it did not hurt him (Acts 28:3-5). He also healed Publius and others (Acts 28:8, 9). Paul also raised from the dead the young man who fell out of the window and was killed (Acts 20:9-12). It becomes clear to even a casual reader of the New Testament that only Paul and Peter, even of the apostles, raised the dead, and they only once each. The other apostles with all their faith and power never did raise the dead. No one else in New Testament times, as far as we know, ever picked up a snake and felt no harm. No one ever swallowed poison as foolish people sometimes now do, just to prove that it would not hurt them.

Then Mark 16:17, 18 did not mean that every believer in Christ as Saviour would work these miracles. What then does it mean?

It simply means that those who have faith for miracles will work miracles. One who believes in Christ as Saviour, gets Him as Saviour. One who has faith for daily bread, gets daily bread. One who trusts God for soul-winning power gets soul-winning power. Only those to whom is given the faith to work miracles can work miracles.

Very few New Testament Christians ever worked miracles. Those who sometimes worked miracles did not do it very often. In the whole lifetime of Paul there were very few. In the life of most of the apostles there were almost none. Miracles were not an everyday business with any New Testament Christian. They were never done for show. Any kind of miracles were given only on special occasions and as God gave special faith.

In other words, Mark 16:17, 18 simply means what Mark 9:23 means, "All things are possible to him that believeth." That does not mean that all things are possible to one that is saved, but all things are possible to one who has faith for all things. One who has faith to cast out devils may cast out devils. One who has faith for the healing of the sick will see them healed. One who has faith for other special blessings will have them. But if God does not give faith for miracles, then God will not give miracles.

So Jesus did not promise these

miracles for all Christians. Rather, He promises that as He gives the faith, and when such need arises, then those who follow Christ and trust in Him will have the power to do what He wants them to do in such circumstances. That is just what He meant for the disciples in His day and He means the same thing today. Christ has not changed. The promises of the Bible are all still true.

### Is The Day of Miracles Past?

There are those who foolishly say that the day of miracles is past. However, such a foolish statement can come only from unbelief or ignorance of the Bible. Nothing is clearer than that miracles are promised on down through the ages. For instance, salvation is a miracle. One who is saved has a miraculous change of heart, a supernatural change, not human, but divine; not ordinary, but extraordinary; not natural, but supernatural. Regeneration is a giving of life to the dead. How silly it is then to say that God works no more miracles in this age!

But someone says that physical miracles are past—that there may be spiritual miracles, but no more does God work physical miracles. I answer back that every spiritual miracle in the conversion of a soul guarantees a physical miracle to follow, for every born-again Christian will have a physical resurrection of his body for a literal translation, a marvelous miracle. Every saved person will be changed instantly at the return of Christ by a physical miracle and will be given a glorious body like the body of Jesus Christ. Do you believe that Christ is to come in the clouds? Then that is a miracle! Do you believe that when His feet land on the Mount of Olives it will divide into two parts, toward the east and toward the west as promised in Zechariah 14:4? Do you believe that the angels of God will gather His elect from the earth and return them to Palestine? Then you believe in physical miracles for the future. Do you believe in the plagues that are foretold for the great tribulation time? Then you cannot say that physical miracles are gone.

Thousands of people bear witness that they have experienced or seen literal, physical miracles. Among these I name Dr. R. A. Torrey. Dr. S. D. Gordon tells of a marvelous case where God literally added to money in answer to prayer by a physical miracle until there was enough to pay the debt on a chapel. He personally closely investigated the case. I have known of numerous incidents where people were healed, some of them instantly, and others through periods of time, when doctors said there was no hope. Many missionaries tell of demons cast out, of the sick raised up at once, of angel defenders in time of danger, etc. Dr. Blanchard, once president of Wheaton College, tells in his book, *Getting Things From God*, of a man raised from the dead in answer to his wife's prayer after several hours. Dr. A. J. Gordon, associate of D. L. Moody, pastor of Clarendon Avenue Baptist Church, Boston, and author of many books, in his book on *The Ministry of Healing*, gives literally dozens of cases well attested, of God's miraculous dealings with men in modern times. If you have not read it, then read it before you ever say that God does not work literal, physical miracles in modern times.

Yes, God promises that "all things are possible to him that believeth." He has never taken back that promise. No man can work miracles of his own choice and at his own time and for his own purposes. God did not mean miracles of any kind to be for man's glory,

or to satisfy the curious or to exalt some preacher. Yet to those who trust Him, He reveals Himself, and in time of need, when He gives the faith, He gives wonderful answer, as wonderful as any promise in Mark 16:17, 18. God's promise of faith is still true for "What things soever you desire when ye pray," according to Mark 11:24.

If we do not cast devils out of the boy brought to us by his broken-hearted father, like the apostles, it is because of our unbelief (Matt. 17:14-21). It is still true that we have not because we ask not, and that without faith it is impossible to please God. But if you have never seen it done, it is still true. If you haven't proved it, then do not blame God. Blame yourself. If you have not seen it take place, then that does not mean that it could not take place. Do not shut the door by unbelief, but accept the Bible promise as true and then when you need it put it to a test.

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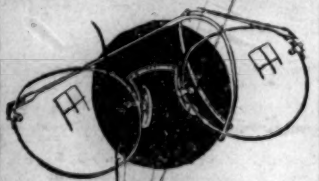
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Believing there is definite need of scriptural preparation of believers from all walks of life for effective witnessing and soul winning, the Christian Business Men's Committee is undertaking another eight day Conference on Evangelism at Cedar Lake, Indiana. Christians who are interested in evangelism, whether of the pulpit or the pew will find rare fellowship and much practical help and inspiration at this conference designed to better equip them to sound forth the Evangel, and deal with souls regarding salvation. The principal speaker will be Dr. John R. Rice of Dallas, Texas, one of the most successful evangelists and soul winners in America today. This charming southern pastor and preacher, sound in the faith, well trained and gifted, has both knowledge and experience to draw from. His was one of the outstanding and most productive ministries Chicago's Noonday Services have ever had.

In addition to Dr. Rice there will be representatives from various groups engaged actively in soul winning, to tell of their experiences in the "doing" of it. The entire week will be supported by a splendid musical program in charge of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Zorn.

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